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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/671,106	09/28/2000	Randal K. Buddington	2343-104-27	8636

7590 11/17/2004
Patent Prosecution Services
Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe LLP
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Washington, DC 20036-2412

EXAMINER

OH, SIMON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/671,106	BUDDINGTON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Simon J. Oh	1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20,22-24,27,30-34 and 37-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20,22-24,27,30-34 and 37-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Papers Received

Receipt is acknowledged of the applicant's request for extension of time and request for continued examination, both received on 16 August 2004. Receipt is also acknowledged of the applicant's amendment and response, both received on 19 October 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

The rejection of Claims 16, 17, 28, 29, 35, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Paul *et al.* and Van Loo *et al.* is rendered moot with the cancellation of those claims. The rejection of Claims 18-20, 22-24, 27, and 30-34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Paul *et al.* and Van Loo *et al.* is maintained.

Claims 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined disclosures of Paul *et al.* and Van Loo *et al.*

The Paul *et al.* patent teaches an orally administered composition for promoting gastrointestinal health comprised of an effective amount of dietary fiber (See Abstract; and Column 3, Lines 39-57). The dietary fiber is a member selected from the group consisting of fructo-oligosaccharides, such as inulin, pectins, pectic polysaccharides, and mannans such as guar gum (See Column 4, Lines 1-10). The Paul *et al.* patent further states that the disclosed

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compositions can be used for treating conditions facilitated by infections caused by pathogenic microorganisms such as *E. coli*, Salmonella, and Candida (See Column 16, Lines 21-26).

The Paul *et al.* patent does not make mention of the degree of polymerization of a dietary fiber.

The Van Loo *et al.* patent teaches a fructan-containing composition with an average degree of polymerization of 15 or higher (See Column 4, Lines 22-28; and Claim 1). The Van Loo *et al.* patent also discloses chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization of about 25 (See Claim 18). The daily doses effective in providing prevention and treatment of colon cancer range from 0.01 to 2 g/kg of body weight (See Column 5, Lines 51-54).

One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine the two prior art references as they both broadly show that the administration of dietary fiber, such as inulin, is beneficial for the gastrointestinal health of a subject in need thereof. As the compositions in both prior art references have similar various effects which are known in the art to be beneficial to a subject, one of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable chance of success in combining the two references. Such effects include a reduction of intestinal transit time, a decrease of the intestinal pH, a bifidus stimulating activity in the colon, bulking of the stool, increase in stool frequency, and an improvement in lipid metabolism (See Paul *et al.*, Columns 2, 3, and 7-11; and Van Loo *et al.*, Column 2). Thus, the instantly claimed invention is *prima facie* obvious.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 19 October 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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With regard to the applicant's arguments against the Paul *et al.* patent, it is the position of the examiner that with the use of phrase "consist essentially of", is it upon the applicant to demonstrate that the inclusion of other components disclosed in the compositions of the prior art, such as beneficial microorganisms, would be detrimental to the function of the instantly claimed invention. Furthermore, as the essential method steps of the instantly claimed invention have already been disclosed in the prior art, that is, the administration of a composition containing inulin, it is the position of the examiner that the disclosure of such steps in the prior art inherently reads on the instant claims. The examiner finds further support for his position from the prior art disclosure of the various beneficial effects of the intake of inulin, described in the above claim rejection, which the examiner notes substantially echoes the applicant's own disclosure (See Page 5).

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Simon J. Oh whose telephone number is (571) 272-0599. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page can be reached on (571) 272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Simon J. Oh
Examiner
Art Unit 1615

sj0


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